



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

62

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,480	05/09/2001	William T. Florence	18360/234317	3771
826	7590	11/29/2007	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP			JEANTY, ROMAIN	
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA				
101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000			ART UNIT	
CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			PAPER NUMBER	
			3623	
			MAIL DATE	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			11/29/2007	
			PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

MAILED

Application Number: 09/851,480
Filing Date: May 09, 2001
Appellant(s): FLORENCE, WILLIAM T.

NOV 29 2007

GROUP 3600

Jennifer F. Miller
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed July 16, 2007 appealing from the Office action mailed June 16, 2007.

Art Unit: 3623

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The following are the related appeals, interferences, and judicial proceedings known to the examiner which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal:

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

No evidence is relied upon by the examiner in the rejection of the claims under appeal.

(9) Prior Art of Record

6,085,170

Tsukuda

6,879,962

Smith

(Core Competency)

David

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

4. Claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 16, 24, 29 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukuda (US Patent No. 6,085,170) in view of David (Core Competency).

As per claims 1, 9, 16, most delivery systems provide time windows for recipient to receive particular items (i.e., the time window may be the days of the week or weekends). Overlapping time windows are time periods within a given day. System for providing a delivery time is well known in the art. For example, Tsukuda discloses a delivery system for managing delivery of goods from a distribution center. In so doing, Tsukuda discloses a delivery managing system in which an individual may choose a delivery time with the obvious difference that receiving choices from a plurality of overlapping time windows are not made by a recipient (col. 5, line 59 through col. 6, line 52). David teaches a system in which a customer (the examiner interprets the customer as “recipient”) selects. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosures of Tsukuda to include an overlapping time window being selected by a recipient/customer as evidenced by David in order to allow a recipient to receive a particular package at a time that would be available to receive it.

As per claims 2, 10, Tsukuda does not expressly disclose providing each recipient with a plurality of time windows that include at least two sequential time windows and at least one overlapping time window that overlaps a portion of each of the sequential time windows. However, Tsukuda discloses the date and time for scheduling a delivery (col. 5, lines 26-46). In

Art Unit: 3623

addition, David teaches a system in which a customer. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosures of Tsukuda to include an overlapping time window being selected by a recipient as evidenced by David in order to allow a recipient to receive a particular package at a time that would be available to receive it.

As per claims 4, 11, Tsukuda does not expressly disclose providing each recipient with a plurality of time windows that include at least two sequential one-hour time windows and at least one overlapping time window that overlaps each of the sequential time windows by one-half hour. However, Tsukuda discloses the date and time for scheduling a delivery (col. 5, lines 26-46). In addition, David teaches a system in which an overlapping time is used (i.e. the time can be half-hour, 1 hour, 1.5 hour, 2 hours, 2.5 hours, etc). Note entire page 2 of David. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosures of Tsukuda to include an overlapping time window being selected by a recipient as evidenced by David in order to allow a recipient to receive a particular package at a time that would be available to receive it.

As per claims 24 and 40, most delivery systems provide time windows for recipient to receive particular items (i.e., the time window may be the days of the week or weekends). Overlapping time windows are time periods within a given day. System for providing a delivery time is well known in the art. For example, Tsukuda discloses a delivery system for managing delivery of goods from a distribution center. In so doing, Tsukuda discloses a delivery managing a delivery system in which an individual may choose a delivery time with the obvious difference that receiving choices from a plurality of overlapping time windows are not made by a recipient. David teaches a system in which a customer (the examiner interprets the customer as "recipient")

Art Unit: 3623

selects a delivery time within a window. Tsukuda further teaches an Internet (most Internet system comprises of a webpage). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosures of Tsukuda to include an overlapping time window being selected by a recipient/customer as evidenced by David in order to allow a recipient to receive a particular package at a time that would be available to receive it.

As per claim 29, Tsukuda disclose a scheduling engine to determine whether a maximum number of orders to be delivered within one of said plurality of time windows has been reached (i.e., list of the scheduled date and time for delivery) (col. 5, lines 15-25).

4. Claims 20-21, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukuda (US Patent No. 6,085,170) in view of David (Core Competency) and further in view of Smith et al "Smith" (U.S. Patent No. 6,879,962).

As per claims 20, 21 and 30, the combined references of Tsukuda and David does not expressly disclose determining which time windows of said plurality have associated with them the least cost of service in making the delivery and determining whether the cost of delivering the item within a time window of said plurality is less than a monetary threshold. Smith in the same field of endeavor discloses the concept of a least cost of service in making a delivery (col. 2, lines 33-46). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosures of Tsukuda and David to incorporate the teachings of Smith in order to determine a minimum cost of delivering a package.

(10) Response to Argument

Appellant argues that none of the references teach or suggest a plurality of time windows, or a subset of the plurality, to a recipient as available times for delivery of an item, wherein the

Art Unit: 3623

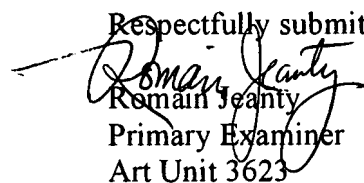
plurality, or subset, includes at least two sequential time windows and at least one overlapping time window that overlaps a portion of each of the sequential time windows. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Tsukuda discloses a delivery system for managing delivery of goods from a distribution center. In so doing, Tsukuda discloses a delivery managing system in which an individual may choose a delivery time with the obvious difference that receiving choices from a plurality of overlapping time windows are not made by a recipient, and David teaches a system in which a customer (the examiner interprets the customer as "recipient") selects. The examiner further interprets this feature as a customer desiring a product to be delivered in a particular month and during the first two weeks or last two weeks of that particular month. The sequential time windows are the month and the overlapping windows are the week. So, this is similar to applicant's claimed invention, and the examiner finds no patentable subject matter apart from this interpretation. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to note this obvious difference merely as a change in language when viewing the Tsukuda and David references.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,



Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3623

Conferees:

Application/Control Number: 09/851,480

Page 7

Art Unit: 3623

Vincent Millin
Appeal Specialist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Millin', written over the printed name.

Alexander Kalinowski
SPE AU 3691

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Kalinowski', written over the printed name.